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SIPDIS

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E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: WB/G SITREP: AUGUST 10, 2005 (1700 HOURS LOCAL) --
IDF ENTER TULKARM ON ARREST RAID, GUNMEN FIRE AT ISRAELI
CAR NEAR HEBRON

This is a joint ConGen Jerusalem/Embassy Tel Aviv cable.

1. (SBU) SUMMARY: In the West Bank, the IDF entered Tulkarm for an arrest operation on August 9, seizing two alleged Hamas members and leaving three Palestinian youths injured in stone-throwing clashes during the operation. Gunmen shot and lightly injured two Israeli settlers in a car near Hebron on August 9. In Gaza, UNRWA reported that one rocket was fired at Tel Qatif overnight August 9-10. No injuries or damage were reported as a result. More than 300 armed and masked members of al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades demonstrated in Gaza City August 9, according to UNRWA, demanding salaries and the release of one of their members. End Summary.

West Bank

2. (SBU) ATTACKS/SECURITY:

-- Deaths: Nil.

-- Injuries: Gunmen shot and lightly injured two Israeli settlers in a car near Hebron on August 9, according to Israeli radio.

-- Injury: A Palestinian was beaten up and lightly injured at a checkpoint in al-Khadr village, near Bethlehem, August 9, after arguing with a soldier about being allowed to pass, according to Palestinian security sources.

-- Injuries/Arrests: The IDF entered Tulkarm for an arrest operation on August 9 in which two alleged Hamas members were seized, according to Palestinian security sources. Three Palestinian youths were injured in stone-throwing clashes during the operation, the sources say.

-- Arrests: The IDF arrested three alleged PIJ militants in Nur al-Shams Camp, near Tulkarm, August 9, according to Palestinian newspapers.

-- Arrests: The IDF arrested three Palestinians in Hebron for possessing knives, according to an IDF press release.

-- Arrest: Israeli police arrested a right-wing settler couple in Sa Nur settlement pursuant to an administrative detention order, according to Israeli media.

-- Incursion: The IDF entered Bethlehem August 9 and conducted searches, but left without making arrests, according to Palestinian security sources.

3. (SBU) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:

-- PA President Abbas met with Hamas leaders in Gaza August 9, with both sides agreeing to hold further discussions on a date for PLC elections, but with Hamas still arguing that Abbas, proposed January date is too late.

Gaza

4. (SBU) ATTACKS:

-- Deaths: None reported.

-- Injuries: None reported.

-- Mortars/Rockets: UNRWA reported that one rocket was fired at Tel Qatif overnight August 9-10. No injuries or damage were reported as a result.

-- Shootings: The IDF reported four instances of shooting at IDF soldiers in Gaza during the afternoon and evening of August 9. No injuries were reported.

-- Explosions: None reported.

-- Arrests: None reported.

15. (SBU) INCURSIONS/DEMOLITIONS: None reported.

16. (SBU) BORDER CROSSINGS:

-- Erez Crossing was open for Palestinians. Approximately 300 Palestinian laborers entered Israel on August 10.

-- The Erez Industrial Zone was open.

-- Sufa Crossing was closed for Palestinian laborers, but open for the import of aggregates used in construction.

-- Karni Terminal was partially open August 10.

-- Abu Khouli internal crossing opened at 0600 on August 10 and was due to remain open until 2000.

-- Rafah Terminal was open in both directions, but closed to Palestinian males between the ages of 16 and 35 traveling from Gaza to Egypt.

17. (SBU) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:

-- More than 300 armed and masked members of the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades demonstrated in Gaza City August 9, according to UNRWA. The demonstrators dem